

REMARKS

Claims 1-67 are currently pending and have been subject to restriction. The Examiner asserts that the claims are drawn to six patentably distinct inventions as follows:

- Group I. Claims 1-12, 16-26, 28, 30-36, 38, 40-42, and 50, drawn to an in vitro system and methods for identifying a modulator of neural differentiation, classified in class 435, subclass 377;
- Group II. Claims 43-52, drawn to methods for identifying a modulator of an FGF signaling pathway, classified in class 435, subclass 377;
- Group III. Claims 53-66, drawn to methods for identifying a modulator of a retinoid signaling pathway, classified in class 435, subclass 377;
- Group IV. Claims 13, 15, 27, 29, 37, and 39, drawn to a modulator of neural differentiation, classification dependent upon the structure of the modulator;
- Group V. Claim 67 in part, drawn to a modulator of an FGF signaling pathway, classification dependent upon the structure of the modulator; and
- Group VI. Claim 67 in part, drawn to a modulator of a retinoid signaling pathway, classification dependent upon the structure of the modulator.

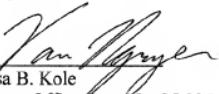
Applicants hereby elect the claimed method of Group II, claims 43-52, drawn to methods for identifying a modulator of an FGF signaling pathway. Applicants submit that the election is made without prejudice to the prosecution of the subject matter of non-elected claims in divisional, continuation, and continuation-in-part applications.

The Examiner further requires a species election where Group II is elected. The Examiner states that Applicants must select from “[a]ctivators of a retinoid signaling pathway as recited in claim 63.” Applicants believe that this is an error, as Group II is drawn to methods for identifying a modulator of an FGF signaling pathway, and not a retinoid signaling pathway. Applicants assume that the Examiner intended to identify claim 49, and select from activators of an FGF signaling pathway. Based upon this assumption, Applicants hereby elect FGF protein as the activator of an Hh signaling pathway.

Applicants reserve the right to rejoin the remaining species upon allowance of a generic claim. Currently, claim 43 is generic.

Entry of the foregoing remarks into the file of the above-identified application is respectfully requested. An early allowance is earnestly sought.

Respectfully submitted,



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